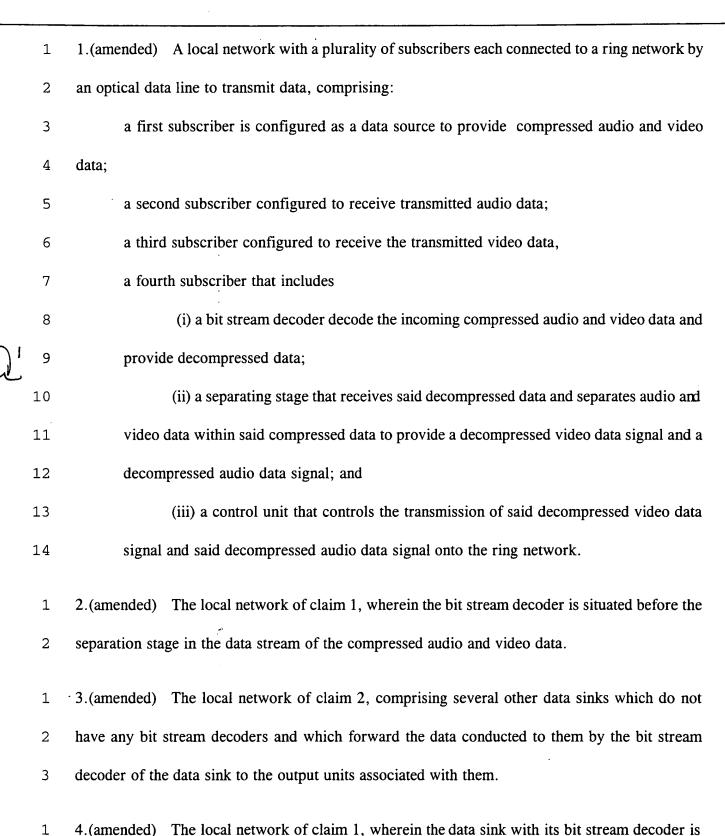


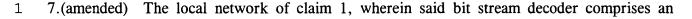
Clean Copy of the Claims

Following Entry of This Amendment





- 2 separate from the other data sinks and is connected through an optical data line.
- 1 5.(amended) The local network of claim 4, characterized in that the data sink is connected to its
- 2 associated output unit for reproducing one type of data, through a common optical data line for
- 3 transmitting audio as well as video data.
- 1 6.(amended) The local network of claim 1, characterized in that the bit stream decoder associated
- 2 with the data sink is situated in the data stream of compressed audio and video data after the
- 3 separation stage of the data sink, and that at least one other bit stream decoder in the other data
- 4 sinks decodes the separated data that are transmitted through the optical data line.



- 2 MPEG-1 decoder.
- 1 8.(amended) The local network of claim 1, wherein the bit stream decoder can be configured as
- an MPEG-1 decoder, an MPEG-2 decoder, an AC-3 decoder, or an JPEG decoder depending upon
- 3 the transmitted control data received over the ring network by the bit stream decoder
- 1 9.(amended) A method for reproducing audio and video data in a local network, comprising:
- 2 transmitting compressed audio and video data from a data source through an optical data
- 3 line to a data sink;
- 4 receiving said compressed audio and video data;
- decompressing received compressed audio and video data to provide decompressed data;
- 6 processing said decompressed data at the data sink to provide decompressed audio data and
- 7 decompressed video data; and

transmitting said decompressed audio data and said decompressed video data from the data 8 sink onto the ring network. 9 1 10.(amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of receiving, decompressing, processing 2 and transmitting occur in the same data sink. 1 --11. A method for decompressing audio and video data in a local ring network, comprising: 2 at a first data sink, (i) receiving compressed data transmitted along a transmission medium 3 of a local ring network at a first data sink, (ii) processing said compressed data to provide a 4 decompressed audio signal, and (ii) transmitting said decompressed audio signal onto the local ring 5 network; and at a second data sink, (i) receiving the compressed data transmitted along the transmission medium of the local ring network, (ii) processing said compressed data to provide a decompressed video signal, and (ii) transmitting said decompressed audio signal onto the local ring network.--8 The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises an MPEG-2 1 2 decoder .--The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises an AC-3 1 --13. 2 decoder.--

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--14.

--15. The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises a video decoder
 and an audio decoder.--

The local network of claim 1, wherein said bit stream decoder comprises a JPEG decoder.

--16. A subscriber unit for use in a local network that includes a data source which provides compressed multimedia data, a first data sink that plays back decompressed audio data, and a second data sink having a display device that plays back decompressed video data, wherein said subscriber unit, the data source and the first and second data sinks are each connected to a ring network by an optical data line to transmit onto and receive data from the ring network, said subscriber unit comprising:

- (i) a bit stream decoder that decodes the compressed audio and video data and provides decompressed data indicative thereof;
- (ii) a separating stage that receives said decompressed data, and separates audio and video data within said decompressed data to provide a decompressed video data signal and a decompressed audio data signal; and
- (iii) a control unit controls the transmission of said decompressed video data signal and said decompressed audio data signal onto the ring network.--